



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 74643
9 September 2013

Ms. Heather Akers-Healy
c/o MuckRock News
DEPT MR 6593
P.O. Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Dear Ms. Akers-Healy:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted via the Internet on 1 September 2013, which was received by this office on 3 September 2013, for "Copies of contracts with VUPEN Security and any final reports generated and delivered by VUPEN to the agency over the past 10 years." You have also indicated that you wish to receive "any processing notes made in completing this request."

Your request has been assigned Case Number 74643. For purposes of this request and based on the information you provided in your letter, you are considered an "all other" requester. As such, you are allowed 2 hours of search and the duplication of 100 pages at no cost. There are no assessable fees for this request.

Your request has been processed under the FOIA and one responsive document was located and is enclosed. Certain information, however, has been deleted from the enclosure.

This Agency is authorized by statute to protect certain information concerning its activities, as well as the names of its employees. Such information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption of the FOIA, which provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The specific statute applicable in this case is Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605, formerly 50 U.S. Code 402 note). We have determined that such information exists in this record, and we have excised it accordingly.

In addition, commercial and financial information that is privileged or otherwise confidential has been deleted from the enclosure, pursuant to the fourth exemption of the FOIA.

The Initial Denial Authority for NSA information is the Associate Director for Policy and Records, David J. Sherman. Since these deletions may be construed as a partial denial of your request, you are hereby advised of this Agency's appeal procedures. Any person denied access to information may file an appeal to the NSA/CSS Freedom of Information Act Appeal Authority. The appeal must be postmarked no later than 60 calendar days from the date of the initial denial letter. The appeal shall be in writing addressed to the NSA/CSS FOIA Appeal Authority (DJ4), National Security Agency, 9800 Savage Road STE 6248, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6248. The appeal shall reference the initial denial of access and shall contain, in sufficient detail and particularity, the grounds upon which the requester believes release of the information is required. The NSA/CSS Appeal Authority will endeavor to respond to the appeal within 20 working days after receipt, absent any unusual circumstances.

Finally, regarding your request for "any processing notes made in completing this request," please be advised the FOIA only requires that this Agency search for records that already exist at the time the search is conducted. Since no administrative records, or notes, existed for this case when it was received, we are not obligated to fulfill this portion of your request. However, if you wish to submit a FOIA request for administrative records, you may do so after this request has been closed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pamela N. Phillips".

PAMELA N. PHILLIPS
Chief
FOIA/PA Office

Encl:
a/s